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ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

CLCS

COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST FUND TO ASSIST IN FINANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

1. In a letter dated 15 May 1998 to the President of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf submitted, on behalf of the Commission, a request to the Meeting to consider, inter alia, a recommendation for the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (SPLOS/28, para. 5 (b)).

2. The Eighth Meeting considered this issue and requested the Secretariat to explore the various possibilities that could be made available to allow all members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to participate in the Commission, as well as the modalities for a trust fund, on the understanding that the Convention clearly sets out the principle that States parties should defray the costs of the members they nominate (SPLOS/31, para. 55).

3. In response to that request, the Secretariat submitted the results of its research to the Ninth Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/39). The issue was considered at the same Meeting pursuant to a request contained in a letter dated 14 May 1999 from the Chairman of the Commission to the President of the Ninth Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/38).

4. A majority of delegations felt that, in order to formulate any specific recommendations, the Meeting needed detailed factual information from the Commission regarding the actual needs and financial estimates for each session. Without that information it would be difficult to recommend any action. Further discussion of the item was adjourned until the next Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/48, para. 48).

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5. In a letter dated 3 June 1999 to the Chairman of the Commission, the President of the Ninth Meeting of States Parties transmitted this request to the Commission and stated, inter alia, that a number of delegations had expressed their support in principle for the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the Secretary-General which should be used to meet the travel and accommodation expenses of members of the Commission from developing countries during periods when they performed their duties as members of the Commission. There was a general understanding that such a trust fund would be financed on the basis of voluntary contributions and that the most appropriate way to proceed would be for the Meeting of States Parties to address a recommendation to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General. It was also noted that the prospective trust fund should be administered in such a way as not to affect the independence of the Commission and its members (SPLOS/49).

6. It should be noted that during the deliberations of the issue of the trust fund at the Ninth Meeting it was requested that the fund should also be used to meet the travel and accommodation expenses of members of the Commission from the countries with economies in transition.

7. The present note by the Secretariat is intended to provide the Commission with the United Nations estimates of the costs involved in the possible financing of the travel and subsistence allowance of 15 members of the Commission, from 13 developing countries (Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Egypt, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea and Zambia), and from two countries with economies in transition (Croatia and the Russian Federation).

8. The following table contains the calculations (in United States dollars) of the cost of round-trip air tickets from and to the capitals of the respective countries and daily subsistence allowances (DSA) for two sessions of the Commission per year: one two-week and one one-week session:

Names	Travel from	Air ticket costs	DSA for 2 weeks	DSA for 1 week
ALBUQUERQUE, Alexandre T. M. De	Brazil	US$ 2 500.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
ASTIZ, Osvaldo Pedro	Argentina	3 350.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
AWOSIKA, Lawrence	Nigeria	3 000.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
BELTAGY, Aly Ibrahim	Egypt	2 500.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
BETAH, Samuel Sona	Cameroon	3 000.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
CARRERA HURTADO, Galo	Mexico	1 000.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
CHAN CHIM YUK, Andre C. W.	Mauritius	3 500.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
FRANCIS, Noel N. St. Claver	Jamaica	750.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
J AAFAR, A. Bakar	Malaysia	3 000.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
JURAČIĆ, Mladen	Croatia	2 800.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
KAZMIN, Yuri Borisovich	Russian Federation	3 500.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
LU, Wenzheng	China	3 500.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
MDALA, Chisengu Leo	Zambia	3 000.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
PARK, Yong Ahn	Rep. of Korea	3 200.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
SRINIVASAN, Krishna-Swami R.	India	2 700.00	3 850.00	1 925.00
Total		41 300.00	57 750.00	28 875.00

9. The estimated costs of air travel for two sessions equals US$ 82,600.00. The costs of daily subsistence allowances for two sessions, three weeks in total, equals US$ 86,625.00. The estimated costs of both travel and DSA combined for two sessions per year equals a grand total of US$ 169,225.00.